Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

1400 East Tenth Street
Eddystone, Pennsylvania

The Rev. William X Smith
Vicar

Telephone
TR 4-2251

1915 --- 1965

Advent Sunday - 28 November, 1965

F I F T I E T H A N N I V E R S A R Y C E L E B R A T I O N

8:00 a.m. Choral Celebration of The Holy Eucharist

Advent Corporate Communion
and
Anniversary Celebration

9:00 a.m. Breakfast, with Brief Addresses

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Elsie D. Morgan, Chairman
Lillian B. Dougherty
John W. Elliott
George D. Reed
Rufus F. Walker, Jr.

HISTORY OF ST. LUKE'S

Beginning with Sunday, July 25, 1915 regular services were held in the Town Hall, under the direction of The Rev. W. H. Anthony.

On Saturday afternoon, July 31, 1915 the corner stone was laid by Bishop Garland. The Rev. Francis M. Taitt, then rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chester was present. Approximately 200 persons were present on this occasion.

Mr. Samuel Vauclain who was at the time President of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, gave the buildings to the Diocese in memory of his son.

The last service in the Town Hall was held November 28, 1915.

On the following Sunday, December 5, 1915 the congregation attended the 11:00 service at St. Paul's Chester and the Rev. W. H. Anthony celebrated the Holy Communion.

This mission was first called St. Peter's.

The first service held in the new church building was at 11:00 a.m. on the third Sunday in Advent -- December 12, 1915 at which time the Rev. W. A. Anthony officiated at Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. Ninety-two persons were present for this service.

At 7:30 p.m. on the first Sunday in Lent, March 12, 1916 the building was dedicated by the Rev. Philip M. Rhinelander, who at the same time confirmed nine persons.

On Tuesday, March 14, 1916 ground was broken for the Rectory.

The first anniversary of worship in the present building was held on the third Sunday in Advent, December 17, 1916. Mr. Anthony's last service was held Sunday, October 28, 1917.

Then followed Lay Services until December 9, 1917 when The Rev. E. A. Macnamara took charge.

1918

Following World War 1 the parish house was used as a recreation building for men in this area.

On August 18, 1918 the reredos was erected.

A "Eucharist for Victory" was celebrated on November 17, 1918.

A Men's Club, Woman's Guild, and Sunday School were active organizations by this year.

1919

Thoughts were given to forming a choir during this year. The vestments were made by the parents of the choir members.

1921

Mr. Macnamara's last service here was held Sunday, January 30, 1921. Services were then conducted by Lay Readers: Sydney T. Cooke, P. G. Hall, J. S. Platt, William J. Flanagan, Oscar C. Taylor, H. Benns, Thomas Hardy, Thomas Baxter and Dean Francis M. Taitt of Chester until the arrival of Rev. W. E. Warren on Easter Day, 1923. He officiated at a 9:00 Service and preached. Mr. Warren entered into Life Eternal on Thanksgiving Day, 1929.

A lace communion cloth was presented to the church by Mrs. Isabella Grieser in memory of her mother, Isabella Baxter.

1924

New pews were given by Samuel Vauclain and first used June 29, 1924.

Albert Firth was hired as organ pumper to be paid 10¢ for the Morning Service, 10¢ for Evening Prayer and 5¢ for choir rehearsals.

In May a rummage sale was held to raise funds for a motor for the church organ.

1929

Eucharistic candlestick holders were presented to the church in memory of Rev. Warren by his wife, Anna K. Warren.

1930

Rev. Carl Appelberg began his ministry here March 2, 1930 and served until 1934 at which time he returned to his native land, Denmark.

Cushions for the altar rail were given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eckels.

Dates of presentation cannot be found for the Altar Service Book and Sanctuary Book of Common Prayer given in memory of Wm. Johnson who entered life Eternal in 1928 and Jennie C. Johnson, 1930.

1933

Rev. Joseph Paul Morris served in this mission from 1933 until 1935 at which time he was called to Prince of Peace Chapel, Philadelphia.

1935

From September 1, 1935 until January 31, 1946 The Rev. Frederick B. Hornby served as vicar of St. Luke's. During his ministry an active Young People's Fellowship was organized and Daily Vacation Bible School sessions were held during the summers for a period of two weeks. A Boy Scout Troop was active.

1939

A Communion Set was presented to the church in memory of Millie Booth Bergantz by friends in the parish.

During the summer of this year the garage was built to house 2 cars.

1940

The candelabra in use at the present time were given as memorials to Samuel M. Vauclain during our 25th Anniversary Service on October 20, 1940 by the church. During this service the Lesson was read by Rev. Joseph P. Morris, the candelabra were blessed by The Very Rev. S. V. Wilcox and the sermon given by The Rev. William H. Anthony, Rector of St. Peter's Pheonixville, First Vicar of St. Luke's Mission, Eddystone. Flowers on the altar were given by the Young People's Fellowship in memory of Alfred Edward Macnamara and William Edward Warren, former vicars of this church who have entered Life Eternal. A reception was held in the parish hall. The cake was given by the Sunday School.

1942

During the years of World War II the parish house was used as an emergency Aid Station for Civilian Defense with members of the congregation taking an active part.

1945

A very impressive Epiphany Candlelight Service was presented on a cold, icy night by members of the Young People's Fellowship.

1946

The Rev. John H. Morgan became vicar of St. Luke's on March 1, 1946 and served until July 1, 1948 when illness caused him to retire.

1948

In January, 1948 St. Luke's Eddystone welcomed into its parish family members of St. Luke's, Chester.

The Y. P. F. which had disbanded temporarily was brought back into an active group under the supervision of Mrs. Mary Rusk, Herbert Wardius, and Rev. Morgan. This group presented a silver dish for the baptismal font in memory of David G. Hornby who entered Life Eternal.

1949

On May 8, 1949 Communion Cruets were presented in memory of Mrs. Anna Mary Orner by her daughters, Mrs. Catherine Alexander and Mrs. Harry Nixon.

A Communion Wafer Box was given by The Woman's Auxiliary.

On May 12, 1949 The Rev. Arthur F. Gibson became vicar of this mission and served until June 15, 1952 at which time he was transferred to St. Titus's Church, Philadelphia.

1950

The Junior Choir was organized by Helen Abramchuk and Mrs. Earl Tyson during this year. The children took an active part during the 11:00 Service and represented St. Luke's Church School at the Mite Box Presentation Service at Episcopal Academy.

On October 8, 1950 a Wurlitzer organ was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Oliver J. Hart and Dean Leifert. The organ was a gift of members of the church along with funds donated by the St. Luke's Guild. During this special service a Baptismal Font was blessed and dedicated in memory of David G. Hornby, given by Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Hornby.

On Christmas Eve, The Altar Service Book was presented as a gift to the church by Rev. Gibson.

1951

In October of this year our Church School was host to the Southwest Church School Association.

Rev. Joseph P. Morris was guest speaker at our Anniversary Service this year.

1952

On May 18, 1952 flower vases were given in memory of Alexander and Annie Montgomery by their daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Schoenberger.

On June 15, 1952 Harry R. Johnson, Jr. came to serve this mission, and was with us until June 1, 1955 at which time he was transferred to St. John's, Essington. Mr. Johnson was ordained into the priesthood at St. Stephen's Norwood and conducted his first Holy Communion Service at St. Luke's on December 19, 1952.

A Young People's Fellowship was again organized and a Cub Scout Troop formed during Mr. Johnson's ministry.

1954

Alms Basins were presented on Easter Day in memory of Nancy Hewes Johnson by the Myra Circle.

In June red liturgical hangings were given in memory of William K. Reed, long-time treasurer of St. Luke's by his wife, Mabel Reed.

In October white liturgical hangings were given in memory of Lillian, Laura, and Florence Goodman, Annie Pyett, Clinton Dubhorn, and Dora Abranchuk by William Goodman, Pyett Family, Mrs. Elsie Morgan, and Abramchuk Family.

The First Annual Bazaar was held on September 24 and 25 on the church lawn with Helen Abramchuk as chairman. The proceeds of $810.00 were used for the combination storm sash and screens for the Rectory.

1955

In January, 1955 a baptismal font cover was given in memory of Myra G. Hornby by the Myra Circle.

The four women's organizations (St. Luke's Guild, The Woman's Auxiliary, Altar Guild, and Myra Circle) were merged into one group and met as a combined group in February, 1955.

An Acolyte Guild was formed in January with Arthur Hartmann serving as director.

Purple liturgical hangings were presented in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cook, Sr., by their daughter, Mrs. John Morgan.

Green liturgical hangings were presented in memory of Thomas Morralee, William and Bertha Harper, William Howard and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Firth by Mrs. Ruby Morralee, Harper Family, Mrs. Mary Howard, and Mrs. James B. Vernon.

Richard C. Chapin, who served as Seminarian-in-Charge of St. Luke's starting September 1, 1954 was ordained Deacon at St. John the Evangelist Church, Lansdowne on May 14, 1955 and was appointed vicar of St. Luke's beginning June 1, 1955.

Mrs. Raymond Macdonald served as Chairman of the 2nd Annual Bazaar which was held on September 16 and 17. The proceeds, over $950.00, were used to defray expenses of the new oil burner in the Rectory and kitchen renovations in the parish house.

There were 171 communicant members of St. Luke's.

At the time of our 40th Anniversary, the parishioners wrote:

> "Let us thank God for our many blessings in the past, especially His guidance through trying times. With thankfulness in hearts may we work together so that in years to come we may grow in unity and strength as a parish family so that we may further the prayer offered by Bishop Garland during the Service of the Laying of the Corner Stone on July 31, 1915. After the stone was laid in its place, the Bishop, striking it three times with the trowel said: 'In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I lay here the Corner-Stone of this Parish House for St. Luke's, Eddystone, to be used in the teaching and training of the young in the truths of Christ's religion, and for the furtherance of the cause and work of His Holy Church in all godly ways, Blessed be God forevermore, in Whom we have redemption through the Blood of His Son Jesus Christ. Amen.'"

Some person or persons unknown gathered and prepared the foregoing information at the time of the Fortieth Anniversary, in 1955.

An added note of appreciation should be inserted here regarding the large number of people who came to this Congregation at the end of 1947, when "old Saint Luke's", Chester, was closed.

Now (1965), eighteen years later, it is daily and increasingly evident that these earnest, devoted, and willing members are always to be found within the central core of those who truly keep this Church going. We have good reason to thank God for the acquisition of these fine workers! !

For the past decade, the following can be reported:

1 9 5 5 - 1 9 5 9

The Rev. Richard C. Chapin was ordained Priest here in November, 1955, and served as Vicar until April, 1959. A notable contribution during this period was that of an ever-increasing emphasis upon the Church School.

1 9 5 9

The Rev. George W. Davison was appointed as short-term Vicar for a two months' period following the tenure of Fr. Chapin.

1 9 5 9 - 1 9 6 1

The Rev. David B. Kenny came here as a Deacon, was ordained Priest here in December, 1959, and resigned for another position at the end of May, 1961.

1 9 6 1 - to the present

The Rev. William X Smith became Vicar in June, 1961. (He was heard to remark when he had first arrived that he estimated a need for about $10,000, to put the whole physical property into shape; as detailed below, most of this amount has now been expended.)

The Altar Guild was revived (but is presently moribund).... The whole program of Altar Flowers is under the able direction of Mrs. Anella Izquierdo. .... An Acolytes' Guild has been formed, and is now in operation.... The Adult Choir, together with Junior Choirs for both boys and girls, and the entire music program have been completely rethought and vastly improved, under the capable leadership of Alice Perkins Smith (the Vicar's wife), a trained and experienced Organist and Choir Director.... The Teen Agers have been drawn together, and are presently helpful in many ways. For example, during the summer of 1964, members of this group raised money for paints, and also supplied the labor, in order to repaint the Parish Hall, Kitchen, and hallways at the stair wells. This group is the hope for the ongoing life of Saint Luke's.... "Family Nights" in Lent have been instituted, to provide people with a meal together, worship together, and study together.... In fact, in many ways, the underlying plan for the entire Congregation has been that of developing a "family" feeling and program in the worship of and the work for God.... The Church School, though small,

is built on this same principle, with instruction based squarely upon what the Prayer Book requires, namely "the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health".... It is impossible too strongly to state the indispensability of the devoted work constanly carried on by The Women of Saint Luke's. Without their substantial and unfailing aid, we should be lost....

Without doubt, however, the area in which the greatest changes have been needed, and in which those brought about have been most evident, is that of the property.

From funds <u>within</u> the Congregation, we now have a Mimeograph machine, a Power Mower, a Dehumidifier, a proper Piano for Choir rehearsal use, and repainting in the Church proper.... In addition, the trees have been trimmed, and the unattractive and long-neglected privet hedge has been removed; many plantings that had outlived their usefulness and/or beauty have been cleared away --- so that now the Church and Vicarage buildings can at least be seen from the street!

With funds obtained from <u>outside</u> the Congregation, these have now been provided and/or installed:

- Paints for the Vicarage interior
- Gutters and spouting for both buildings
- New heating boiler for the Church
- Office Lights for the Altar
- Sidewalks for the entire property (new)
- Termite treatment for the Church building
- Moving expense
- Full Hymnals for the Choir
- New Altar Missal
- Prayer Books for all the pews
- Typewriter
- Sectional Garage Doors

The Vicar has been able to secure gift funds for the above items, in the amount of just under $5,500. In addition, less than a week before the present Anniversary Celebration, a contract has been let for urgently required exterior work, to preserve both buildings --- caulking and painting and waterproof sill protection around all windows, together with patch-pointing of all stone surfaces. The $2,275 for this work is being given by the Diocese.

In short, of the $10,000 roughly estimated to be needed in 1961, there will soon have been expended a little under $8,000 --- all obtained at no cost whatsoever to members or organizations within this Congregation, but entirely from outside gifts and grants.

With the property in good and sound shape, and with the growing feeling of our being a true "family-in-God", we should be able assuredly and confidently to step forward, as we enter upon the second half-century of the Church here, in and for the borough of Eddystone and the surrounding area.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

In 1916 Mrs. William Reed was elected first president of the Ladies Guild of St. Peter's Mission. The meetings were held in private homes or the Town Hall. The first meeting in the church was held January 4, 1917.

The first supper was held February 10, 1917 with Mrs. Osterle, Chairlady. Proceeds netted $108.00. Social teas were held by individuals in their homes and proceeds were given to the church.

In 1919 thoughts were given to starting a kindergarten in the church.

In 1922 there was a suggestion that the name of the organization be changed to the Church Guild.

At the September 7 meeting plans were discussed for a bake and bazaar. No conclusion was reached.

Saurkraut Suppers and Pancake Suppers were very popular during these early years.

A church sign board was erected in 1924.

In June 1926 a successful Strawberry Festival was held.

In 1927 this group became a part of the Convocation meetings for the Woman's Auxiliary.

The first officers of the Woman's Auxiliary elected March 14, 1931 were:

President - Mrs. Carl Appelberg
Secretary - Mrs. Winfred Jones
Treasurer - Mrs. William L. Williams

The newly organized Guild (1934) had as its first officers:

President - Mrs. Henry Carpenter
Vice President - Mrs. Joseph P. Morris
Secretary - Mrs. Edward Schoenberger
Treasurer - Mrs. Robert Urey

The Woman's Auxiliary was reactivated February 8, 1938 with the following officers:

President - Mrs. Arthur Bergantz, Sr.
Vice President - Mrs. Henry McKane
Secretary - Mrs. William Margath
Treasurer - Mrs. George Mears
Educational Secretary - Mrs. F. B. Hornby

Four women's groups were active until January, 1955, at which time the St. Luke's Guild, The Woman's Auxiliary, Myra Circle, and the Altar Guild were combined to meet together the first Tuesday of each month for business meetings. Officers appointed were:

President - Helen Abramchuk
First V.P. - Mrs. Zachary Dougherty
Second V.P. - Mrs. Norris Powell
Secretary - Mrs. James Platt
Treasurer - Mrs. Henry McKane

Throughout the years the women have provided the financial means for many improvements which have been made. To mention some of these improvements - oil burner for the church, renovation of floor in the church and replacement of the floor in the parish hall, new curtains for the stage, stove for the kitchen in the parish hall, curtain dividers for the church school classes, padded kneelers for the church, new rug for the church, and new china and utensils for the kitchen.

The women could not have accomplished these things without the cooperation and support of the men in the parish. The men have always been on hand to help when needed.

As stated in the present by-laws the purpose of the present organization, "The Women of St. Luke's" is "to bring the women of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Eddystone together in fellowship and service for the glory of God and the good of His Church." Any woman who is confirmed or desirous of being confirmed may become a member of this organization.

THE WOMEN OF SAINT LUKE'S
1955 - 1965

The reorganized and renamed group had its first meeting as "The Women of Saint Luke's" on February 1, 1955, with twenty-six members in attendance.

A critical review of the minutes of this organization over the past decade reveals the stark fact that Saint Luke's Church could not have survived financially, were it not for the determined and dedicated effort of this small core of women who have an unusual capacity for hard work.

Fund-raising projects have been many and varied: bakes, card parties, merchandise clubs, dime folders, bazaars, catering the Mother-Daughter banquet for the Methodist Church, the traditional Blue and Gold Dinner for the Cub Scouts, and the dinners for the Baldwin Square Club. There have been square dances; strawberry festivals; sales of candy, stationery, paper products, and recipe books; pancake breakfasts, luncheons, and all kinds of suppers featuring, in different years: turkey, ham, spaghetti, smorgasbord, fish, roast beef.

The proceeds from these work projects have been used in various and sundry ways; the primary purpose and ultimate goal of each activity, however, was to keep the Church solvent. The following statement notes illustrative contributions of The Women of Saint Luke's for the five-year period between 1955 and 1960 (figures are approximate):

1955	Oil Burner, Vicarage (partial)	$625.00
	Choir Vestments	186.67
	Builders for Christ campaign	300.00
1956	Missions Quota for Church (partial)	475.00
	Special Easter Offering	125.00
	Cleaning of Church	200.00
	Renovation of Church Kitchen	462.15
1957-8	Church Kitchen: electric wiring, lumber, painting, cabinets	538.43
	Stainless Steel Sink for Vicarage	389.00
	Tables	119.54
	Missionary Quota (partial)	400.00
1959-60	Vicarage improvements: painting, shades, floor covering, light fixtures	363.89
	Ordination gift and Reception	106.50
	Vicarage Fence	159.00

The Treasurer's Annual Report for 1963 shows clearly the manner in which The Women of Saint Luke's support the Church financially. Total receipts for the year 1963 amounted to $2,204.77; disbursements for Church support totaled $1,335.69. In the past few years, the women have elected to pay the property taxes on the Vicarage, to underwrite janitorial services, and to grant sums of money to pay urgent and outstanding bills of the Church.

Over the years, The Women of Saint Luke's have been conscientious in the care of the Altar, supplying wine and wafers, flowers, linens, candles, and other like needs.... They have raised money to establish a Choir Fund, and have helped provide Choir Vestments.... The Sunshine Committee visits shut-ins, and remembers the sick with cards and flowers.... The women have provided funds for the Church School, and have granted scholarships for young people to attend the Youth Conferences held in Radnor....

THE WOMEN OF SAINT LUKE'S
1955 - 1965 (cont'd.)

Furthermore, the women have been sensitive to the needs of those outside the local Church community, and have been involved in such projects as:

Clothing collections for Church World Service.... Community Chest Fund.... the Episcopal Hospital.... the Divinity School.... the YWCA in Chester.... The United Thank Offering.... Christmas gifst for the Indian Mission at San Juan, New Mexico.... the James C. Smith Memorial Home in West Chester..... Episcopalian guests at Fair Acres.... Christmas packages and magazine subscriptions to Parish men in the Armed Forces.... etc.... etc....

The Women of Saint Luke's enjoy and participate in the fellowship of many social and educational functions held at other Episcopal Churches in the area, and from time to time they invite these groups to special programs featured here at Saint Luke's. They have participated in the Diocesan Conference Center in Radnor; they are active in the Convocation of Chester (two of whose officers are members of the local group); they maintain annual membership in the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches.

* * * * *

Perhaps the spirit, love, and selfless endeavor of The Women of Saint Luke's can best be captured in the recorded tribute to one of their departed former members:

"As we look about our Mission here in Eddystone, do we see just the stone, mortar, and wood which comprise a movable structure? Or do we see God's immovable forces which have kept us together? These forces which come of the talents with which we are blessed, that they may be used to do God's will?

Throughout the years in which Maybelle Tyson was a part of Saint Luke's, Eddystone, we felt her presence, and will feel her dedicated influence for years to come. Her love for music has enriched us, because she gave unstintingly of her time and energy in Church Choir, Church School, and extra-curricular activities. As a Church School teacher she imparted her knowledge and wisdom --- molding lives as part of God's will. Her interest in the Youth of the Church was plainly evident. Loyalty in action was expressed through her willingness to coöperate in all activities, to the Glory of God and the good of Saint Luke's.

Her thoughts may well have been along this vein:

'Thy kingdom come' we pray to God;
'Thy will be done' as on earth we trod. "